

NOTICE TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT WATER EMERGENCY

The Village has turned off numerous water meters where leaks were discovered. The Village is ready to assist you but will not turn your meter back on unless or until there is a water shutoff valve installed on the customer's side of the meter. This is necessary because it is possible that there are multiple leaks and your plumber may need to repeatedly turn water on and off. In accordance with Village Ordinance as stated below, the property owner is not to tamper with the Village water meter shutoff and is liable for a penalty.

Sec. 86-10. Unlawful use of water or discharge of waste; damaging or tampering with water or sewer facilities; penalties.

(a) It shall be unlawful to use or cause to be used any water produced and/or distributed by the village without consent of the council. Water distributed through an authorized water meter or connection will constitute such consent.

(1) The village shall require a user to install a full way valve on the user's line to isolate the user's water system from the village's distribution system.

(2) Failure to have a full way valve connected to the user's line shall necessitate a service charge as listed in the fee schedule in appendix A to this Code when the village makes a turn-off at the meter.

(b) (1) It shall be unlawful to discharge or cause to be discharged any liquid waste to the liquid waste collection or treatment system operated by the village without consent of the council. Approved connections or permits shall constitute such consent.

(2) It shall be unlawful to discharge any liquid waste from a septic tank or other customer sewer system onto or into the ground, into the environment or otherwise not into either the approved village system or septic systems approved by the New Mexico Environment Department. Upon notice from the New Mexico Environment Department of an illegal discharge and confirmation by the village, the village shall issue a notice to the owner directing that the discharge be brought into compliance within 48 hours. Failure to comply within that period shall result in immediate termination without further notice. All reconnect fees will be applicable.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully break, injure or tamper with any part of the village water and sewer department water or liquid waste facilities, including but not limited to wells, pump stations, reservoirs, sewage treatment plants, lift stations, distribution lines, fire hydrants, service lines, meters, gate valves, manhole covers or grates.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any one service meter to serve more than one lot.

(e) Any water customer found to have an illegal hook-up, tap, additional service, or other service in violation of this Code, shall be issued a 15-day compliance order. Upon failure to comply, the village may without further notice, shut off and lock the meter until such time as the service is brought into compliance and all fees are paid.

(f) In addition to other offense and penalty provisions herein, it shall be unlawful for any person to tamper with terminated service as follows:

(1) When service has been terminated as provided for in this Code, it shall be unlawful for any person to tamper in any way with the water meter or water lines for the terminated service. Tampering shall include removal of the lock, turning the meter on, or otherwise obtaining water from the village system.

(2) Removal of any seal placed on the meter shall constitute prima facie evidence of tampering by the customer.

(3) Village water personnel are hereby designated as code enforcement officers for purposes of this section.

(g) Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished in accordance with section 1-6.

(h) Any person in violation of section 86-31(e), pertaining to private use of fire hydrants, shall be punished in accordance with section 1-6. Each successive day that a person violates section 86-31(e) shall be considered a separate offense. The court may sentence any corporation, club, organization or unincorporated association which has been convicted of a violation of such provisions to pay a fine as authorized in this subsection.